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Rift Valley Local Empowerment for Peace (LEAP II)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CD	Country Director
DPC	District Peace Committee
EWS	Early Warning Systems
IGA	Income Generation Activity
LEAP	Local Empowerment for Peace
LPCs	Location Peace Committees
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MSC	Most Significant Change
NSC	National Steering Committee
ODM	Orange Democratic Movement
PEV/MSC	Participatory Evaluation Video/Most Significant Change
YDC	Youth Development Coordinator
YSHG	Youth Self Help Group
YYC	YES YOUTH CAN
UDM	United Democratic Movement
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the major gains accrued from the efforts this reporting quarter is the recognition by senior government officers, members of the DPCs, our local partners, and other local actors that peacebuilding should be conceived as an Early Response to Early Warning. While striving to meet our set objectives, we focused more on catalytic actions. Such actions included offering needed facilitation to stimulate key prevention actions, undertaking bridging activities across ethnic and other sectorial divides, and facilitating problem-solving sessions, dialogues, and action planning. Much of the responsibility for actual tasks and their completion were moved to members of the DPCs, early warning/early response teams, our local partners and youth groups and others, mostly local actors. This meant relinquishing control and approaching tasks from a new perspective. Mercy Corps continued to lend support, technical advice, consulting, and resources for activities. As the campaigns for the 2012 general elections gain momentum, local actors will increasingly become the key people to define the real dimensions of local conflicts. As such, an elicited rather than prescriptive approach will be taken in partnership with local actors.

The program reached 617 direct beneficiaries this quarter (406 men and 211 women). Cumulatively, our direct beneficiaries reached 6,942 people. Eighty-three (83) people (59 male and 24 female) attended the district leaders' dialogue forum, while 196 (136 male and 60 female) attended community reconciliation dialogues. We conducted two economic and entrepreneurship trainings that together reached eighty-nine (89) youth group representatives (57 male, 32 female) from 80 YSHGs in Eldoret, Kericho and Nakuru/Molo. Twelve (12) cash-for-work projects, attracting 249 young people (154 male and 95 female), were completed.

Next quarter will see the program enter the turbulent phase of Kenya's political campaigns. One of the issues we anticipate will characterize the campaigns is acts of aggression (physical or otherwise) directed towards those perceived to pursue opposing political persuasions. We plan to intensify our dialogue sessions, focus community energies in cross-ethnic community projects that show tangible results for cooperation, and play a more catalytic and elicited role. Community projects and IGA implementation are the two major activities going forward. We will also have one multi-district stakeholder regional forum that will see Rift Valley DPC members visit their Wajir district counterparts for exchange of ideas in peacebuilding.

December 19, 2011, Mercy Corps submitted a concept note for LEAP III as requested by USAID/K/GJD.

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Following Kenya's disputed presidential elections in December 2007 that triggered an explosion of violence, killing more than 1,500 and displacing over 600,000 people, Mercy Corps together with Wareng Peace Development Initiative (Eldoret), Kericho Youth Centre (Kericho) and Peace Development Forum (Nakuru/Molo), is implementing a two-year Local Empowerment for Peace program (LEAP II) to build on the successes in LEAP I, which was implemented from January 2009 to July 2010. LEAP's overarching goal is to strengthen the ability of local, district, and provincial structures to address the causes of post-election violence and promote sustainable

peace and reconciliation. Mercy Corps is supporting this goal by pursuing three related objectives: 1) strengthen sustainable mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation; 2) support community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities and demonstrate tangible benefits to coexistence; and 3) support youth integration and address a key cause of violence through youth leadership training, small-scale cash-for-work community reconstruction projects, and income-generation activities.

II. PROGRAM PROGRESS

A. Cumulative Progress Overview

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
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Goal: Strengthen the ability of local structures to address causes of post-election violence and promote sustainable peace and reconciliation in the Rift Valley province

# of people reached through completed USG supported community based reconciliation	3,500	617	6,942	198%
Objective 1: Strengthen sustainable mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation				
1.1a # of conflict assessment reports/maps	5	0	6	120%
1.2a # of peace-building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engaged conflict-affected citizens in peace and/reconciliation processes (Indicator no. 188)	8	0	8	100%
1.2b # of public fora/educational events to teach public about peace process.	20 by Feb. 2011, 40 by EoP	4	23	58%
1.2c % change in survey respondents reporting “strong” local mechanisms for conflict mitigation, peace and reconciliation	75%	0	0	0%
1.3a # of people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance (Indicator no. 106)	300	0	298	99%
1.3b # of disputes resolved by program participants.	32	7	30	94%

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
1.4a # of USG-supported facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups (Indicator no. 110)	32	3	29	91%
1.4b # of people attending USG assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups. (Indicator no. 111)	240	83	947	395%
1.5a # of USG programs supporting a conflict and/or fragility early warning system and/or response mechanism (Indicator no. 107)	8	0	7	88%
1.6a % increase in level of interaction among district and regional forum participants	25%	0	0	0%
Objective 2: Sponsor community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities and demonstrate tangible benefits to cooperation.				
2.1a # of USG-supported facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups. (Indicator no. 110)	80	6	83	104%
2.1b # of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events geared towards strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups (Indicator no. 111)	2,400	196	4,373	182%
2.2a # of joint reconstruction projects implemented that benefit conflict-affected communities	20 by end of year 1, 64 by end of program	6	6	9%
2.2b % change of survey respondents reporting increased engagement in joint activities with members from other communities	50%	0	0	0%
2.3a # of joint monitoring teams established	64	0	64	100%
Objective 3: Support youth integration and address a key cause of violence through youth leadership training and income generation activities				

Indicator	Overall target by end of program	This quarter	Cumulative	% to date
3.1a % change in local partners and YSHGs in overall organizational capacity score through six key areas of organizational capacity	Baseline + 1 pt; overall and in each area	0	0	0%
3.1b % change in amount raised in contributions to support partner and YSHG activities.	Baseline + 40%	0	0	0%
3.2a # of young people who complete leadership, consensus building and economic skills building training	480	89	481	100%
3.2b % change of young people who report using skills to address a challenge in their lives	75%	0	0	0%
3.3a # of Cash-for-work sites where 'connector' (re) construction projects have been implemented	40	12	38	95%
3.3a # of youth who participate in Cash-for-work projects that bring young people together across ethnic lines	600	249	843	141%
3.3b % change in young people who feel they are making a positive contribution to their community	75%	0	0	0%
3.4a # of income generating projects implemented	40	0	0	0%
3.4a # of youth who participate in implementing income generating projects	200	0	0	0%
3.4b # of private sector mentors engaged	20	1	9	45%
3.4b % Youth Self-Help Group members achieving greater economic independence as a result of income generation activities	60%	0	0	0%
3.5a # of USG-assisted public information campaigns to support peaceful resolution of conflicts	8	4	12	150%

B. Program Interventions

Local Empowerment for Peace (LEAP II) in Kenya's Rift Valley is building on Mercy Corps' USAID-funded Local Empowerment for Peace program (LEAP I), which was implemented in the

larger Uasin Gishu and Kericho districts from January 2009 to July 2010. The two-year, \$1.7 million USAID-funded program expanded into Keiyo, Nandi, and Nakuru and now has operational field offices in Eldoret, Nakuru, and Kericho with three local partners. The community dialogues are identifying several truly innovative peacebuilding projects. Led by the local partners and guided by Mercy Corps, LEAP II is providing support for youth integration and addressing a key cause of conflict through youth leadership training and income generation activities. The program is organizing community dialogues and district leaders forums that provide space for locals to contribute to several critical drivers of peace – fostering open political dialogue, pacing up the reform agenda, providing skills for the management of land conflicts, and opening access to justice and reconciliation. It is strengthening the District Peace Committees and district peace secretariats’ capacity, helping to make them important and influential actors in local conflict and peacebuilding issues. LEAP II is improving the strained relationships between various ethnic groups in Rift Valley, as well as between civil society and the government. It is also building the capacity of many local, and some national, actors involved in peacebuilding projects in the Rift Valley.

In support of youth empowerment, Mercy Corps has mobilized financial resources to leverage the work of objective 3 above. We have received funding from Western Union that we are using to improve the financial literacy of our youth, especially those who benefited from LEAP II cash-for-work and LEAP I IGA projects. We have conducted a series of financial literacy trainings with a select group of YSHGs with a view to establishing any significant difference in their incomes, saving and spending patterns. Empirical data from the initiative is providing evidence of significant shifts in saving and spending habits of youths that benefited from cash-for-work projects. We hope this research will be able to inform further youth economic empowerment initiatives.

LEAP II Goal: Strengthen the ability of local structures to address causes of post-election violence and promote sustainable peace and reconciliation in the Rift Valley province

Objective 1: Strengthen sustainable mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation

Summary of Objective 1 Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three conflict assessments (Nandi, Keiyo, and Nakuru) and two stakeholder maps (Nandi and Keiyo) produced. • District Peace Committees established and/or strengthened. • 32-40 district dialogue forums that bring groups together to discuss resolve joint problems. • District leaders gain new leadership and consensus-building skills to resolve tensions. • Early warning and response systems established. • District and provincial leaders increase interaction through multi-district and regional forums.

Activity 1.1 Conflict assessments and stakeholder mapping:

As per the initial work plan, this activity was completed and reported in the first quarterly report.

Activity 1.2 Establish/strengthen District Peace Committees:

Most DPCs have become increasingly good at facilitating community dialogues. In this reporting quarter, they resolved seven (7) disputes. Dialogue remains an intrinsic part of their strategy in facilitating negotiations, building consensus and deepening mutual understanding. In this reporting quarter for instance, the ability of a DPC to facilitate processes of joint problem-solving and prevention/reduction of violence, was demonstrated in Nandi North District. The Nandi North DPC successfully prevented a possible outbreak of violence during the ODM grassroots elections by informing the police of a planned disruption of the elections by a group allied to the UDM party and later, organizing a joint ODM/UDM youth meeting. In a few cases, like Eldoret East, some DPCs have pursued dialogue as an objective in itself, but there is room for strengthening this aspect of their mandate to make it more oriented toward problem-solving and community-building. However as we approach the elections and new conflicts emerge, we are beginning to notice some weaknesses within some DPCs. Most of the weaknesses seem to emanate from the nature of their composition. The composition of DPCs, although contained in the National Steering Committee's (NSC) Standard Guidelines and Terms of Reference for Peace Structures in Kenya, may not be realizing its objectives. People are becoming members of DPCs primarily based on their local popularity. The ideal situation would have been to secure the participation of the main protagonists, but also to include people who enjoy high levels of trust in the community and who have the capacity to hold the centre in the midst of centrifugal forces. Such people may not be neutral or impartial in terms of the conflict; they may be identified with one of the sides. But by virtue of their integrity and rootedness in their community, they have the capacity to provide critical leadership and stability to the DPC. A DPC that is composed solely of people who command a majority following in the community has an almost impossible task. Finding the right balance between popularity/acceptance and leadership capacity is important. We plan to share these experiences with NSC and specifically to propose a possible modification of the terms of reference for the formation of DPCs.

Activity 1.3 Conflict management and consensus-building training for district leaders:

No trainings for district leaders were conducted this quarter.

Activity 1.4 Dialogue forums for district leaders:

The role of the district leaders forum continues to grow, specifically with regard to provision of a regular forum in which the leadership of various organizations and communities come together to share their different perspectives, discuss their common problems, offer ideas and proposals about how they can be addressed and -- where sufficient consensus exists-- respond with appropriate action. There were 3 district leaders' dialogue forums, bringing together eighty-three (83) leaders (59 male and 24 female).

Activity 1.5 Establish early warning systems with the DPC secretariats:

As per the initial work plan, this activity was reported in the fourth quarterly report.

Activity 1.6 Multi-district and regional dialogue forums:

As reported in the fifth quarterly report, the first multi-district and regional dialogue forum was done in Nakuru. The second and last such event will be done, subject to security situation in Wajir, in the month of February 2012. Should the security situation fail to improve in the North, we plan to invite the Wajir Peace and Development committee and all our DPCs to one of our target districts for the exchange program.

Objective 2: Support community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities and demonstrate tangible benefits to coexistence

Summary of Objective 2 Results

- 80 communities engaged through dialogues to promote reconciliation and identify projects for implementation
- Implementation of 64 community and district projects that demonstrate tangible benefits to cooperation
- Demonstration by community members of increased willingness to cooperate across conflict lines
- Establishment of joint monitoring teams for all projects

Activity 2.1 Communities participate in district community dialogues to identify consensus-building and economic development projects:

As per the annual work plan, July 2011-July 2012, this activity was reported in our fifth quarterly report.

Activity 2.2 Implement community consensus-building and economic development projects:

At the time of writing this report, we had disbursed funds for the start of six (6) community consensus-building projects. Four communities in Kericho and two in Nakuru County are already implementing their projects.

Activity 2.3 joint monitoring and reporting teams:

As per the annual work plan, July 2011-July 2012, this activity was reported in the fifth quarterly report.

Objective 3: Support youth integration and address a key cause of conflict through youth leadership training and income generation activities

Summary of Objective 3 Results

- Organizational capacity of local youth association and youth self-help groups strengthened
- Acquisition of new skills by young people to help them earn an income and address daily challenges
- Youth implementation of up to 40 cash-for-work activities that promote community

development

- Sense among youth that they are making a positive contribution to their communities
- Youth identification and implementation of up to 40 income-generating activities
- Support of private sector mentors for youth entrepreneurs
- Youth-produced success stories published or aired on local media.

Activity 3.1 Organizational capacity building for youth partner and youth self-help groups:

Our local partner capacity is still at the centre of our interests for quality programming. We continue to focus our support on ensuring that the three youth-led and managed organizations continue to grow organizationally, in leadership, financial management and programming. At the time of writing this report, our partners had a joint youth group membership of 350, bringing together approximately 5,300 young people. Kericho Youth Centre had a one-day capacity building session on report-writing and accountability to beneficiaries. Wareng Youth Initiative for Peace and Development (WYIPD) has shown tremendous improvement in communicating their stories of success after a story-telling and report-writing training attended by Youth Development Coordinators (YDCs).

Activity 3.2 Core training for youth self-help group leaders:

Our trainings of YSHG leaders this quarter shifted slightly from leadership and consensus building trainings offered in the past, to economic and entrepreneurial skills. Equally noticeable has been the rise in the number of organizations wanting to do something with the youth on conflicts, leadership and economic empowerment in the last few months. A surge of activities toward mitigation or prevention of violence in any given area usually confronts the problem of duplication inherent in the cross-cutting nature of the efforts that have to be undertaken in addressing the problem. This problem became apparent in this quarter as several organizations began to troop back to the Rift Valley to do something in anticipation of possible youth violence with the approaching elections. Although most of them use different approaches and tools, when done in a more sustained manner, the efforts also end up touching on issues already addressed in other programs, including LEAP. Still we appreciate that while on the one hand duplication can be wasteful, in some way, it can enrich the efforts—since differing perspectives emerge on the same issues. However the current efforts are unpredictable, lack timelines, and a number of them are unsystematic.

Activity 3.3 Youth-led cash-for-work initiatives:

In recent conversations with young people in Eldoret to review the status of the program so far, they voted cash-for-work as one of the best support extended to jobless and conflict-affected youths within their communities. To many of them, this activity helps improve relationships across ethnic boundaries, is a source of income and makes them relevant in community development. A total of 12 cash-for-work projects were completed this quarter, directly benefiting 249 young people (154 male and 95 female) from Eldoret (9), Kericho (2) and Nakuru (1).

Activity 3.4 Youth develop income-generating projects with the support of local private sector mentors:

Our experiences from LEAP I and the results of the baseline survey had indicated that enhancing negotiation and communication skills is a starting point in youth empowerment, but that young people also needed strategies for building economic and social skills. Technical training is central to entrepreneurship and youth empowerment. Our trainings, while equipping young people with relevant business skills, also tried to prepare them for work in the formal and informal sector in the urban and rural areas where we work. But we also realize that the targeting of “youth” is based on the common misconception that boys and girls are a homogeneous group. In LEAP I our gender-neutral use of the word “youth” implied that our IGA programs did not cater for the different needs of young women and reached mostly young men, who are more visible in public. In preparing our youth groups to take advantage of the start up capital this time round, we considered the different needs and challenges of young women including, specifically, early marriage and child-bearing that limits the possibilities of young women and girls.

Many young women in our target districts are severely restricted in their mobility and restrained to the domestic sphere. Thus of the 40 IGAs to be initiated by youth groups, we have considered, “girl-only run” or “majority women” groups for start-up capital. The proposed income-generating opportunities cover a wide range of activities, including traditional bee-keeping, poultry-rearing and small-scale farming, but also theatre and DSTV cafés. Others are provision of transport services, barber's shops and the like. These projects will also benefit entire communities by filling gaps in and supporting essential community services. As a pre-funds disbursement condition for successful groups, we had a business exchange program among youth entrepreneurs. For example, groups planning to start up poultry or bee-keeping were taken to visit youth groups that are already established in this type of business from LEAP I. The groups were accompanied by an agricultural officer or a relevant specialist from the concerned business area. We hope this kind of exchange will not only encourage the new starters, but also give additional new insights into the world of business. The disbursing of start-up capital started in mid-December, 2011 and will be completed in the next quarter.

Activity 3.5 Youth produce success stories in collaboration with local journalists:

We continued to work with youth groups to collect and disseminate what they consider success stories. Working with local journalists and in cooperation with other conflict transformation colleagues working in the region the stories for peace workshops is helping introduce the culture of open communication among young people, inspiring them to consider interethnic opportunities, to work side by side. It is presenting a modeled respectful, open and engaged dialogue among young people even as they learn to tell others and the world at large, through various media, their story. In this reporting quarter, 91 young people from Kericho and Nakuru counties participated in telling and collecting such stories. We are working toward developing a web forum for sharing these stories.

III. Constraints and Challenges

- While many peacebuilding organizations in Rift Valley are doing great work, a number of them are engaged in some kind of ‘laissez-faire’ peacebuilding, a situation in which we have ideals, but openness to very limited amounts of integration at the implementation level. There is political stagnation over some types of required action; quite negative stereotypes of ethnic groups persist, even among some DPC members, and a wide gulf in perceptions regarding the importance and timing of intervention remains. A recent appearance of a DPC chairman as a principal witness for one of the suspects appearing at the ICC has weakened the trust in DPCs in some regions.
- The formation of Village Youth Bunges under the YYC project, while great, has raised a challenge to our peacebuilding efforts. We have established that when YYC structures are created along village boundaries, ethnic divisions are most likely to be strengthened, since most villages in Rift Valley are mono-ethnic. However, since the problem lies in the YYC design, LEAP II has taken the advantage of shared scope in some areas to overlap into the YYC structures and will provide the needed support in ensuring the challenge is managed.

IV. Lessons Learned

- While our peace indicators remain pivotal in guiding the implementation and measuring the impact of our projects, our intensive interaction with conflicted communities in Rift Valley is making us appreciate that as external actors, we may be unable to ‘see’ some local peace and/ or conflict indicators that are part of the hidden or non-obvious transcript. We are actively engaged in observation of local conditions and practices that convey a richness and texture absent from some of the standard indicators we are using. We are developing interest on the notion of ‘everyday peace indicators’ that we hope would allow communities and outsiders to uniformly track change within the society, indicators that can be defined and deployed by local communities. This will improve accuracy at the project level, even as it avoids being incongruous with on-the-ground experience. Identifying such indicators in Rift Valley will mean a construction of bottom-up indicators that will compliment and add value to our already existing evaluation tools.
- We have learned the importance of the enhancement of women’s participation in peacebuilding as stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution 1325. While women and girls endure the same violence as the rest of the population -- torture, arbitrary imprisonment, forced migration, ethnic cleansing, threats and intimidation -- they are also targets of specific forms of violence and abuse, including sexual violence, exploitation and intentional infection with HIV/AIDS. More importantly, incorporating the contribution of women to peacebuilding will avoid past mistakes in which their contributions have been overlooked because “they take unconventional forms, occur outside formal peace processes, or are considered extensions of women’s existing gender roles.”¹ Still, there is a need to guard against an over-simplified reduction of our gender challenges to men as perpetrators and women as victims.
- The achievements realized in neutralizing volatile, potentially violent situations since the establishment of the early warning, early response teams have taught us and our

¹ Strickland, Richard and Nata Duvvury, “Gender equity and peacebuilding: From Rhetoric to Reality: Finding the way” http://www.icrw.org/docs/gender_peace_report_0303.pdf International Center for Research on women, 2003 (ICRW), accessed December 12, 2006 Pp 1-48 http://www.icrw.org/docs/gender_peace_report_0303.pdf

beneficiaries that peacebuilding should be conceived as an Early Response to Early Warning. While there are several existing early warning teams and efforts in Rift Valley, few of them make any attempt to bridge the gap between early warning and early response. Those who sound alarms seldom undertake prevention initiatives and when they do so they typically limit themselves to quiet diplomacy. Those working on the ground as peace builders are very guarded in their public statements so as not to alienate the authorities in the places where they are working. Bridging between advocacy and action, however, would be a key feature of success in future.

V. Planned activities for next period of three months, January – March 2012

Next quarter, we will focus on strengthening the DPCs and LPCs to ensure they remain vibrant and stable. In March, we will proceed with the conflict management and consensus-building trainings focusing on issues that emerge as political campaigns gain momentum. District leaders' forums will be organized as issues arise. EWS will be strengthened by a follow-up training in January and subsequent monitoring for early response. An exchange visit to Wajir County by Rift Valley DPC leaders will be facilitated for learning purposes. As implementation of community projects proceeds, we will continue to emphasize that relationships are what matters, in keeping with notions of conflict transformation. We will conduct community reconciliation dialogue forums with support from the DPCs where we find such need in the next quarter. We will build the capacity of the three local partners according to identified needs. The two cash-for-work projects remaining in Eldoret region will be completed in January. With our partners, we will intensify IGA funds disbursements, and the production and dissemination of YSHG success stories.

Activity (Person responsible)	2012		
	January	February	March
Program start up			
Hiring of program staff (CD)			
Conduct external midterm program evaluation (CD, PM, M&E and external evaluator)			
Semi-annual progress reports, (CD)			
Goal 1: Build and strengthen local mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation			
1.1 Baseline, conflict assessment and mapping, Nandi, Keiyo, Nakuru (CD, conflict specialist)			
1.2 Establishment and support District Peace Committees, Nandi and Keiyo (CD, PM, PC)			
1.3 Conflict management and consensus building training for district leaders (PM, PCs, POs)			
1.4 Conduct 32-40 district dialogue forums (PCs, POs)			
1.5 Establishment of early warning systems (PCs, POs, DPCs)			
1.6 Multi-district and provincial leaders regional forums (PM, PCs, POs, DPCs)			
Goal 2: Support community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities for peaceful co-existence			
2.1 40/80 community reconciliation dialogue implementation (PCs, POs, DPCs)			
2.2 20/64 district reconstruction projects implementation (POs, POs, DPCs)			
2.3 Establishment and training of joint monitoring teams (PM, M&E, PCs, DPCs)			
Goal 3: Support youth integration and address a key cause of violence through youth leadership training, small scale cash-for-work community reconstruction projects and IGA's			
3.1 Organizational capacity building for youth partner and youth self-help groups (PM, PCs)			
3.2 Core training for youth self-help group leaders (PC, PO, local partner/youth groups)			
3.3 20/40 rapid response cash-for-work youth community reconstruction projects (PCs, YDC)			
3.4 Identification and implementation of 20/40 IGA's (specialist, private sector, PM, PCs)			
3.5 Production of eight youth success stories (PM, M&E, PCs, local journalists, PC, YDCs)			

Goal 1: Build and strengthen local mechanisms for conflict mitigation and reconciliation

Activity 1.2: Baseline, conflict assessment and mapping

This activity was completed and is not scheduled for next quarter implementation or reporting.

Activity 1.2: Establishment and support of District Peace Committees

Our continued support for both DPCs and LPCs in all the target districts will continue in the next three months. We will involve them in activities such as community dialogues to deepen their experience. DPCs that need more capacity building will be given more attention.

Activity 1.3: Conflict management and Consensus building for district leaders

In March of next quarter, we will proceed with conducting need-based trainings emphasizing the conflict-preventive aspects as we approach the elections. This will be guided by the prevailing political atmosphere or any other potential conflict instigator. Central to this training will be DPC members, youth leaders, and other district or community leaders to deepen their capacity to handle conflicts..

Activity 1.4: 32-40 district dialogue forums for district leaders

We have a few district leaders forums remaining that will be implemented based on need in various districts. This will happen throughout next quarter. We will employ the approach we have used before, where we choose a topical issue that affects peaceful coexistence and invite relevant district leaders and stakeholders within the district for a discussion and deliberation.

Activity 1.5: Establishment of early warning systems

We will have a follow-up training for our early warning and early response teams in January to help set up a strong monitoring system that will see all communities get ready for the forthcoming elections. Mercy Corps and other stakeholders involved like NSC, will keep a close eye on the weight of the warnings and organize rapid responses where needed..

Activity 1.6: Multidistrict and provincial leaders' regional forum

The second leaders' regional forum is scheduled for next quarter and will involve an exchange visit to the North Eastern province. We will facilitate this higher-level discussion between Rift Valley and Wajir Peace and Development Committee in North Eastern province.

Goal 2: Support community dialogues and implement joint development projects that build bridges among divided communities for peaceful co-existence

Activity 2.1: 40/80 community reconciliation dialogues implementation

In the next quarter, dialogues will be held based on need. The relationship-building meetings will continue to be facilitated by the DPCs, where the benefiting community is found. Where Mercy Corps support is needed, our program coordinators will be ready to help.

Activity 2.2: 20/64 district reconciliation projects implemented

Site visits, planning and initiation of additional community projects will be done next quarter as well as monitoring of the already launched 6 projects. We will get help from the trained community project monitors and DPCs to ensure that all projects are well implemented and monitored for community maximum impact.

Activity 2.3: Establishment and training of joint monitoring teams

This activity is not scheduled for next quarter reporting.

Goal 3: Support youth integration and address a key cause of violence through youth leadership training, small-scale cash-for-work community reconstruction projects and income-generation activities

Activity 3.1: Organizational capacity building for youth partner and youth self-help groups

This activity will run during the entire quarter for all the three local partners, both to ensure quality programming and to leave our local partners better than we found them. We will continue to refer to our robust and customized Localizing Institutional Capacity (LINCS) organizational capacity building tool kit.

Activity 3.2: Core training for youth self-help group leaders

This activity is not scheduled for action in the next quarter.

Activity 3.3: 20/40 Rapid response youth-led cash-for-work community reconstruction projects

We have made efforts to complete all our cash-for-work projects in the next quarter, as it proved difficult to have them done this reporting quarter as proposed in the work plan. Our local partner in Eldoret will help in implementing the two remaining cash-for-work projects scheduled to start in January.

Activity 3.4: Identification and implementation of 20/40 IGA's

Different youth groups are expected to launch their enterprises in January and see them move toward profitability. The ‘start small, grow big’ principle of entrepreneurship has been given much weight as far as this activity is concerned, the groups have high expectations. Mercy Corps will make sure that those groups that require business mentors are helped in addition to the already available technical support from our senior technical advisor for economic empowerment.

Activity 3.5: Production of eight youth success stories

We will use the month of January to complete writing and sharing stories collected in the previous quarter. In February, we will embark on a second round of YSHG success stories collection, starting with Eldoret and using multi-media methods that include Participatory Evaluation Video/Most Significant Change (PEV/MSV). As in the past quarter, this activity will involve local peace actors and select journalists willing to participate as core facilitators and writers.

VI. List of sub-grants

1. Wareng Youth Development and Peace Initiative – Eldoret East, Eldoret West, Wareng, Nandi North and Keiyo
2. Kericho Youth Centre – Kericho East and Kericho West

3. Peace Development Forum - Nakuru/Molo